NUMB. XXXV.

The GUARDIAN.

O vitæ Philoſophia dux, virtutis indagatrix! Cicero.

Tueſday, April 21. 1713.

To NESTOR IRONSIDE, *Eſq;*

SIR,

'I Am a Man who have ſpent great part of 'that Time in rambling through Foreign 'Countries, which young Gentlemen uſual-'ly paſs at the Univerſity; by which courſe 'of Life, although I have acquired no ſmall In-'ſight into the Manners and Converſation of Men, 'yet I could not make proportionable Advances in 'the way of Science and Speculation. In my Re-'turn thorough *France*, as I was one Day ſetting 'forth this my Caſe to a certain Gentleman of that 'Nation, with whom I had contracted a Friend-'ſhip, after ſome Pauſe, he conducted me into his 'Cloſet, and opening a little Amber Cabinet, took 'from thence a ſmall Box of Snuff; which, he ſaid, 'was given him by an Uncle of his, the Author 'of *the Voyage to the World of* Deſcartes; and, 'with many Profeſſions of Gratitude and Affection, 'made me a Preſent of it, telling me at the ſame 'time, that he knew no readier way to furniſh and 'adorn a Mind with Knowledge in the Arts and 'Sciences, than that ſame Snuff rightly applied.

'You muſt know, ſaid he, that *Deſcartes* was 'the firſt who diſcovered a certain part of the Brain, 'called by Anatomiſts the *Pineal Gland*, to be the 'immediate Receptacle of the Soul, where ſhe is 'affected with all ſorts of Perceptions, and exerts 'all her Operations by the Intercourſe of the Animal 'Spirits which run thro' the Nerves that are thence 'extended to all Parts of the Body. He added, that 'the ſame Philoſopher having conſidered the Body as 'a Machine, or Piece of Clock-work, which per-'formed all the vital Operations without the Con-'currence of the Will, began to think a way may 'be found out for ſeparating the Soul for ſome 'time from the Body, without any Injury to the 'latter; and that after much Meditation on that 'Subject, the above-mentioned Virtuoſo compoſed 'the Snuff he then gave me; which, if taken in a 'certain Quantity, would not fail to diſengage my 'Soul from my Body. Your Soul (continued he) 'being at liberty to tranſport her ſelf with a 'Thought where-ever ſhe pleaſes, may enter into 'the *Pineal Gland* of the moſt learned Philoſo-'pher, and being ſo placed become Spectator of 'all the Ideas in his Mind, which would inſtruct 'her in a much leſs time than the uſual Methods. 'I returned him Thanks, and accepted his Preſent, 'and with it a Paper of Directions.

'You may imagine it was no ſmall Improve-'ment and Diverſion, to paſs my time in the *Pi-'neal Glands* of Philoſophers, Poets, Beaux, Ma-'thematicians, Ladies and Stateſmen. One while 'to trace a Theorem in Mathematicks through a 'long Labyrinth of intricate Turns, and Subtilties 'of Thought; another, to be conſcious of the ſub-'lime Ideas and comprehenſive Views of a Philo-'pher, without any fatigue or waſting of my own 'Spirits. Sometimes to wander through perfumed 'Groves, or enamelled Meadows, in the Fancy of 'a Poet: At others, to be preſent when a Battel or 'a Storm raged, or a glittering Palace roſe in his 'Ima-

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'Imagination; or to behold the Pleaſures of a 'Country Life, the Paſſion of a generous Love, or 'the warmth of Devotion wrought up to Rapture. 'Or (to uſe the Words of a very ingenious Author) 'to

Behold *the Raptures which a Writer knows,*
When in his Breaſt a Vein of Fancy glows,
Behold *his Buſineſs while he works the Mine,*
Behold *his Temper when he ſees it ſhine.*

Eſſay on the different Stiles of Poetry.

'Theſe gave me inconceivable Pleaſure. Nor 'was it an unpleaſant Entertainment, ſometimes to 'deſcend from theſe ſublime and magnificent Ideas 'to the Impertinencies of a Beau, the dry Schemes 'of a Coffee-Houſe Politician, or the tender I-'mages in the Mind of a young Lady. And, as 'in order to frame a right Idea of Human Happi-'neſs, I thought it expedient to make a Tryal of 'the various Manners wherein Men of different 'Purſuits were affected; I one Day entered into 'the Pineal Gland of a certain Perſon, who ſeem-'ed very fit to give me an Inſight into all that which 'conſtitutes the Happineſs of him who is called a '*Man of Pleaſure*. But I found my ſelf not a lit-'tle diſappointed in my Notion of the Pleaſures 'which attend a Voluptuary, who has ſhaken off 'the Reſtraints of Reaſon.

'His Intellectuals, I obſerved, were grown un-'ſerviceable by too little Uſe, and his Senſes were 'decay'd and worn out by too much. That perfect 'Inaction of the higher Powers prevented Appetite 'in prompting him to ſenſual Gratifications; and the 'out-running natural Appetite produced a Loath-'ing inſtead of a Pleaſure. I there beheld the in-'temperate Cravings of Youth, without the En-'joyments of it; and the Weakneſs of old Age, 'without its Tranquility. When the Paſſions were 'teized and rouſed by ſome powerful Object, the 'Effect was, not to delight or ſooth the Mind, but 'to torture it between the returning Extreams of 'Appetite and Satiety. I ſaw a Wretch racked, at 'the ſame time, with a painful Remembrance of 'paſt Miſcarriages, a diſtaſte of the preſent Objects 'that ſollicit his Senſes, and a ſecret dread of Fu-'turity. And I could ſee no manner of Relief or 'Comfort in the Soul of this miſerable Man, but 'what conſiſted in preventing his Cure, by infla-'ming his Paſſions and ſuppreſſing his Reaſon. But, 'tho' it muſt be owned, he had almoſt quenched 'that Light which his Creator had ſet up in his Soul, 'yet, in ſpight of all his Efforts, I obſerved at cer-'tain Seaſons frequent flaſhes of Remorſe ſtrike 'thro' the Gloom, and interrupt that Satisfaction 'he enjoy'd in hiding his own Deformities from 'himſelf.

'I was alſo preſent at the original Formation or 'Production of a certain Book in the Mind of a 'Free-thinker, and, believing it may not be unac-'ceptable to let you into the ſecret Manner and in-'ternal Principles by which that Phænomenon was 'formed, I ſhall in my next give you an Account 'of it. I am, in the mean time,

Your moſt Obedient Humble Servant,

Ulyſſes Coſmopolita.

N. B. Mr. *Ironſide* has lately received out of *France* ten Pound Averdupoiſe Weight of this Philoſophical Snuff, and gives Notice that he will make uſe of it, in order to diſtinguiſh the real from the profeſſed Sentiments of all Perſons of Eminence in Court, City, Town and Country.

This Paper is to be had of Mr. Yemes *under the* Thatch'd-houſe *Tavern in St.* James's-ſtreet; *Mrs.* Bond *at* Charing-croſs; *Mrs.* Bolter *near the* Temple-gate; *and Mr.* Round *in* Exchange-Ally.

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